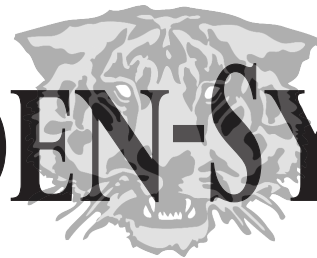


THE HAMPDEN-SYDNEY TIGER



March 4, 2019

The Spring Break Issue

Volume XCIX.9

Accident Kills Hampden-Sydney Student and Leaves Three Others Injured

Chad Pisano '19
Editor-in-Chief

Tragedy struck the Hampden-Sydney community in the early hours of Friday, February 22nd, when a car carrying four H-SC seniors crashed; the accident led to the death of Alexander Byrne '19 and left the other students, who were named as Tristan Goering '19, Robert Munn '19, and Shay Wood '19, hospitalized in Richmond, according to an email sent out by President Larry Stimpert later that day.

According to articles by local NBC (WWBT) and CNN (WRIC) affiliates as well as *The Southside Messenger* and *The Farmville Herald*, a 2009 Audi A4 carrying the four students went off Abilene Road shortly before 1:00am on Friday, apparently hitting a ditch before colliding with a tree. First responders, including those from Hampden-Sydney's volunteer fire department and the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad, reportedly showed up to the scene within five minutes of the call

to where the car was at that point engulfed in flames. Byrne passed away at the scene. Goering, Munn, and Wood were brought to Centra Southside Community Hospital before they were transferred to a hospital in Richmond, where they remain in the hospital. Two of the students were reportedly not wearing their seatbelt. The crash remains under investigation.

A memorial service for Alexander Byrne was held in the College Church this past Saturday, and a vigil was held Friday night at the Theta Chi house.

When members of the administration were asked for a comment about the accident, *The Tiger* was referred to the memorial service details that were published on February 26th and the February 25th statement on the college website "College Mourning Loss". This post reiterated, without names, that four students had been in a car accident and that one had passed away while the other three students remained in the hospital. The post stated that the students, their families, and their friends, were in the "thoughts and prayers" of the H-SC community, and thanked members of the community for showing their "support to these students and their families and friends."

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger asks

that our readers keep the students affected by this crash, as well as their families and friends, in their thoughts and prayer at this difficult time. Losing a brother at a school as closely-knit as ours is a difficult thing. Be supportive to all members of the community at this time and do not hesitate to reach out to the counseling services if you need them, even if you don't think you should need them. Keep each other safe.

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger's whole staff would like to extend their sincerest condolences to the family of Alexander Byrne. If you knew Alexander Byrne and would like to have the chance to describe who he was, his character, and his life in the next edition of the paper, please send a few sentences about him to newspaper@hsc.edu.

H-SC Elects New Student Government Leaders

Lucio Chavez '22
Guest Contributor

While it might be true that our representatives in D.C. have a tendency to flout many of the promises they make, it is safe to say that our Hampden-Sydney government is made up of members that honor their promises, correct? As students of Hampden-Sydney, we are held to a high standard that demands us to not tolerate any person who breaks the code. Therefore, we must hold our executive officers to the same standard.

The candidates were allowed to share their ideas and standpoints at the recent student government debates, and were asked a set of questions by the current executive officers and by the audience. Here's what they had to say:

The evening began with the Honor Court chairman debate. John Pittman '20, the newly elected chairman, ran a platform of strengthening the enforcement of the honor code. He began his performance as the only candidate running for the chairman position by explaining what the Honor Code meant to him. Pittman referred to the Honor Code as "the single most important thing at Hampden-Sydney," and spent ample time expressing his feeling towards the "current sanctions" to the punishments that are given for breaking the honor code. He expressed that incorporating a lenient strike would "cheapen" the honor code. This new addition, he added, "makes it easier to be a Hampden-Sydney man." Most of us can agree with Pittman when he aligns H-SC's honor code with what it means to be a member of this distinguished institution. Pittman also plans to restore the faculty's trust on the Honor Court.

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Secretary-Treasurer Garner Bayless '19 moderates the debate for his position

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INFO



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

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by J. B. Wall '19

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We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at newspaper@hsc.edu.

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger is a student newspaper serving the community of Hampden-Sydney and operating independently of the College. *The Tiger* is printed, roughly, biweekly by *The Farmville Herald*.

Letter From the Editor: Thanks for Reading

Chad Pisano '19
Editor-in-Chief

One thing that amazed me about sitting down to write this article, or whatever it is, was how unprepared I was. This issue of the newspaper will be my last issue in charge of *The Hampden-Sydney Tiger*. When I first started writing for the newspaper my sophomore year, I never considered the fact that I might become editor in a year. In a similar way, when I did become the editor a year after that, I never really thought that this position would actually end. It was certainly in my head that I wasn't hired to be the eternal editor (something I have been very happy to remember during a few of the late nights I have had putting together the newspaper), but I never had a firm grasp of the fact that this position's tenure would eventually run up. So I never thought of anything to say when it finished, and now you're reading the rambling result of that.

Despite my general inability to sense and plan for the future, I am able to look back into the past without any difficulty. I guess that is probably the best direction to look in when writing a goodbye anyways. When I look back at my tenure, I see things to be proud about and things to kick myself for. And there's plenty that I did wrong. I barely talked to my advisor for the first six months. Weekly meetings could've been improved loads, but they weren't changed. I never changed some structures or ways of doing things that I knew needed to be changed.

Yet, I still feel like there is much

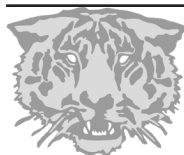
for me to be proud of. I am proud of the fact that we have not run a word search or a crossword; in other words, I am proud that the newspaper has been a news-driven entity for the duration of my editorship. We did not fill in space with reviews that only the author would read or old, already seen cartoon and pictures. That may have made some issues boring, but it made our paper a real newspaper. I am proud of the fact that we are not always a press release on behalf of the school. I am proud of the fact that we have only published things written by students. I am proud of the fact that we rarely, if ever, had to expand our focus beyond the world of Hampden-Sydney.

Overall, I would like to say just one thing: thanks for reading. It has meant more than you will ever know to hold this position, to receive responses to articles, and to serve the H-SC community in a way that was truly challenging and fulfilling. I don't have any advice or deep philosophizing to end my tenure, but I

think it might be appropriate to end my goodbye with the final statements of my first letter from the editor in my first issue in charge. You can tell me if I've held up my end of the bargain; I challenge you to continue holding up your end.

"If I had a nickel for every time someone told me that this school was going down the drain, I would be a very rich man. If you truly feel that way about the state of affairs at our school, do something to change that. Question the actions that our school takes. Hold our college to a greater standard than a grumble and a shrug. Call nonsense or bullshit where you see it, and praise people when you believe they deserve it. We have a standard to uphold at *The Tiger* and an obligation as a student body. The standard of *The Tiger* is quality, relevant, and factual news. The obligation of our students is caring enough to make a difference where you can. I will do my best to uphold my standard. I urge you to do your part."

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OPINIONS

Hampden-Sydney, How Are You Feeling?

Elijah Edwards '22
Staff Writer

Thus far, the 2019 spring semester has built up to be anything but ordinary. Aside from the unfavorable weather and sickness characteristic to this wintry time of year, the campus has dealt with fights on fraternity circle, unwanted visitors, an armed threat endangering the safety of students, and the devastating loss of one of our brothers amidst the injury of three others. I believe it is due time we all take stock of our emotional well-being—and breathe.

Generally, we understand winter to be a taxing season. This winter has drained the bodies, hearts, and minds of our campus. The health of faculty, staff, and students wavers precariously. The weather uncooperatively vacillates between wind, rain, sleet, snow, and if we are lucky, the occasional blessing of sunshine. Then, winter further besets us with the hardships of danger, conflict, loss, and pain. Did I forget to mention midterms?

It is natural and justified to react with frustration and despair at our lack of control over the world whirling around us. We cannot quit ourselves of emotions. In fact, we create more danger when they become repressed. Thus, I urge our community to take time during the aftermath of these hardships—to pause—and re-

flect on how we handle our emotions.

For the past few weeks, I have attended a biweekly seminar held by LeeAnna Early, one of the counselors in the Counseling Center, called “It Is What It Is.” The seminar focuses on how to cope with emotions. For most of the sessions, I was the only student in attendance. A greater turn out would be splendid, but we both understand it is what it is.

So far, we have discussed emotional intelligence, control, and simple coping skills. Understanding how to handle emotions applies to every aspect of our well-being. As a community and as a brotherhood, I feel we must consider critically how our emotions influence our well-being, especially now.

Emotions happen regardless of our choice, but we can learn to choose how to healthily respond to

When you find a moment to pause and reflect amidst the chaos, consider:

1. What are you feeling?
2. What is making you feel this way?
3. How are your feelings impacting you and others?

Simply reflecting on these questions helps us touch base with our emotions. I strongly urge our community to actively develop a practice of understanding how we feel, what influences our feelings, and how they impact our lives. If not for empathizing with others, learn to first understand and respect your own emotions.

But before asking everyone to dive into their emotions, I must discuss control.

We can only control our responses to how we feel and the surrounding situations that call for problem-solving. We must equally respect the fact that we indeed experience emotions, that we cannot control emotions themselves, and that the responses of others, as well as situations

without room for problem-solving, likewise remain outside of our control.

Therefore, always remember to consider what is within the realm of control when coping with emotions. Releasing any attachment to controlling the uncontrollable provides a foundation for utilizing healthy coping skills.

As for the coping skills themselves, I can only urge the H-SC community to find what works individually. Personally, I love mindful practices like breathing with intention. It is accessible at any moment,

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Where is Kashmir and Why Does It Matter?

Keifer Pfister '20
Staff Writer

Kashmir is a non-autonomous region in Southern Asia that is controlled by China, Pakistan, and India. India controls most of the territory and population in the Kashmir region, with Pakistan controlling the second most and China controlling the least. Kashmir is a flashpoint of

spurring needed economic growth.

All of this potential has been placed in jeopardy after a terrorist attack against Indian Troops in the Indian Controlled area of Kashmir on February 14th. Separatists drove a truck filled with explosives into an Indian Military Caravan killing at least forty Indian troops. The Indian government claims that Pakistan has allowed militant groups to grow without attempting to stop them. Pakistan claims no part in the attack. The conflict and rhetoric has been steadily worsening over the last few weeks.

The conflict escalated even further with Indian planes conducting airstrikes against supposed terrorist

“The conflict escalated even further with Indian planes conducting airstrikes... inside Pakistani territory”

conflict between the predominantly Hindu country of India and the predominantly Muslim Pakistan. The majority of the population in India's Kashmir is Muslim; making it the sole Muslim-majority state in India.

India and Pakistan have been in conflict since 1947 when they began the process of dividing the two states from one British Colony. Two of the four major wars between Pakistan and India have started over control of the Kashmir region. The Kashmir region has been traditionally economically focused around agriculture, but the Chinese Asian Investment Bank, through Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, would bring a gas pipeline and potential rail line through the region,

training camps inside Pakistani territory on the 25th of February. Pakistan denies the existence of such camps and suggests that the Indian government is bombing empty land in an attempt to bolster national support during an election cycle. The conflict escalated even further on the 27th of February when the Pakistani Government claimed to shoot down two Indian aircrafts, capturing one pilot. Countries around the world, including the United States, have called for cooler heads, and peace, to prevail. The Pakistani government stated on the 28th of February their intention to release the captured pilot to the Indian government as a peace sign. The Indian government has yet to respond to the announcement.

“We cannot quit ourselves of emotions. In fact, we create more danger when they become repressed.”

them. By learning how to respond better to our emotions, we can improve individually and communally our emotional intelligence (the ability to understand, acknowledge, and express our emotions to handle our relationships with empathy).

Practicing emotional intelligence allows us to take responsibility for how we feel and react. We must actively practice recognizing, validating, and responding appropriately to our emotions for not only the sake of our own sanity, but effectively empathizing with our brothers at H-SC.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY DINING SERVICES EVENTS | MARCH 2019

MARCH 1

Customer Appreciation at Lunch
in the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm

Faculty & Staff — Join us the First Friday of every month and enjoy an all-you-care-to-eat meal in the dining hall for only \$3.00, plus tax. That's 30% off the door price!

MARCH 5

Fat Tuesday Premium Meal
at the Dining Hall // 5:00pm–7:30pm

Ping Pong Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Chicken Tenders with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$6.00

MARCH 6

Soul Food Lunch
at the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm

Corn Hole Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Man Up Burger with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$7.99

MARCH 7

Trivia Night
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–11:00pm
Free Fountain Beverage for Participants

MARCH 8

March Birthday at Lunch
in the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm
Brownie Sundaes
Hours of Operation
Dining Hall 7:30am–7:00pm
Tiger Inn 7:00am–3:00pm

MARCH 17

St. Patty's Day Premium Meal
in the Dining Hall // 5:00pm–7:00pm

MARCH 19

Ping Pong Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Chicken Tenders with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$6.00

MARCH 20

TH Teaches Smoothies
At the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm

Corn Hole Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Man Up Burger with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$7.99

MARCH 21

Surf and Turf Premium Meal
in the Dining Hall // 5:00pm–7:30pm

Trivia Night
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–11:00pm
Free Fountain Beverage for Participants

MARCH 26

Seasonally Fresh:
National Nutrition Month at Lunch
in the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm

Ping Pong Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Chicken Tenders with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$6.00

MARCH 27

Soul Food Lunch
at the Dining Hall // 11:00am–1:30pm

Corn Hole Tournament
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–10:00pm
Man Up Burger with Fries, and Fountain Beverage \$7.99

MARCH 28

Opening Day Baseball Premium Meal
in the Dining Hall // 5:00pm–7:30pm

Trivia Night
at the Tiger Inn // 9:00pm–11:00pm
Free Fountain Beverage for Participants



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What Happened to The House of Delegates?

Keifer Pfister '20
Staff Writer

On April 9th 2018 Senator Samard '21 introduced the bill to create a new governing body on the HSC campus, the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates would be modeled after the House in the United States Congress, with representation based on dormitories locations and not based on grade. There were a planned 27 delegates, and duties would concern the impeachment of executive committee officials (Student Body President, Senate Chairman, CAC Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer), addressing problems surrounding the dorms, and doing dorm-based activities. It was

set to be integrated into The Key for the 2018-19 school year. After the changes did not appear in the 2018-19 edition of The Key, the press correspondent for the Senate asked if there were any troubles getting it added.

Senator Samard turned over the implementation of this bill to Senator Francis '20 and Senator Ricketts '19 in the early Fall of this year for extra time to handle personal mat-

ters. Early last semester the Senate stated that the administration was still looking on how to implement it. Almost a year after the bill was originally passed, and six months since the last Senate Statement on the issue the future of the bill seems uncertain.

Upon inquiry the Senator Ricketts stated that implementing the House of Delegates was more complex than the Senate originally expected and that the special committee was "waiting for the roll out from Dean Holloman to figure out a more effective way to hold elections". He stated that the biggest problem seemed to surround how to hold elections given that many

that because the House of Delegates involved residence life and would be "Mainly an RA deal" he was working with Dean Holloman. While Senator Francis said he wasn't regularly meeting with Dean Holloman, he still believed that the implementation would go into effect by the beginning of next semester. Francis believed that he had met with Holloman this semester, but only informally popping by. He suggested that the delay in implementation was due to scheduling and planning. "Things get busy, people get busy, the administration is busier than ever. The hope is now to get it implemented at the beginning of next year"

Upon inquiry the current Chairman Pullen stated that he delegated the legislation to a special committee to handle the role out led by Senator Ricketts and Senator Francis. They updated them a few weeks ago and they are "just waiting for the RA's to implement it". He disagreed with the notion that the role-out was taking to long; he said "Anytime you create a new branch you

don't want to mess it up; you got to make sure it's done right"

When asked about implementing the house of delegates a head RA said "No we don't deal with that stuff; that is just completely wrong" When pressed about what information he had received about the House of Delegate project he stated that "No one has talked with us (Head

Continued on page 8

New Student Government Leaders Continued

He believes that the lack of trust derived from the "lack of transparency" between the faculty and the court.

Following the Hon. Court chairman debate was the Secretary-Treasurer debate. Zachary Aldridge '20, our new secretary-Treasurer, faced a difficult road to election. Aldridge began the debate by stating that it is important for the Secretary-Treasurer to "know the faculty and students well." Throughout the debate he praised his predecessor, Garner Bayless '19, for the amount of transparency that he added to the Student Finance Board. He went on to explain that when faced with how to properly cut club budgets, he would "take into consideration [the club's] past budgets." Will he be able to successfully lead a committee that he has never served in? Students seem to hope that he will.

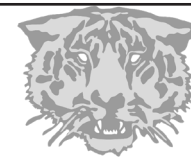
The debate between the CAC chairman candidates happened next. However, due to his absence, not much is known about our new CAC chairman, Garriss Stokes '20. Students can be certain that *The Tiger* will interview Stokes about his intentions for the forthcoming school year.

The final debate of the night happened between the then candidates for president. Our new Student Body President, Ben Anderson '20, described the role of the Student Body President as being a "liaison between students and staff." He ensures the student body that he will work to improve H-SC by accomplishing things such as: finding ways to "encourage [students] to get involved" in activities and creating a transportation system for the weekends. Unlike some of his previous opponents, An-

derson cheered a plan to change some aspects of the college. He explains that the changes to the college will make "sure [that] we keep with [the] change of times." Anderson exalted our current Student Body President, Michael Good '19 for ensuring that students can communicate with the executive officer; Anderson plans on following Good's footsteps. Anderson is optimistic that H-SC will continue to improve in all possible ways.

Through the recent bill passed by the Student Senate, a new student elected position was added this year: The Chairman of the Student Senate. Connor Francis '20 ran unopposed to become Hampden-Sydney's first Senate Chairman elected directly by the student body. Francis, during the debate, was praised by the current Senate Chairman, Larry Pullen '19, as a student "uniquely qualified" to succeed him. Francis plans to increase student input in the Senate by increasing the amount of Senate town halls held throughout the year. He plans to make the Senate more efficient by creating a mentorship initiative that will allow Senators with less experience to be counseled by senior Senators. Francis also took some time to speak about a new legislative branch of government, The House of Delegates, that would be implemented in the coming year. *The Tiger* plans to speak more about this new branch on the foreseeable future.

The Tiger wishes each of our new government officials the best as they prepare to lead our esteemed institution.



Feeling Continued

helps me reduce stress, approach myself and others calmly and patiently, and helps me find the ground when I feel stuck in a cloudy chaos. Sometimes we all just need a little breather.

But I acknowledge that simply breathing isn't appealing nor works for everyone. Some may find it silly or impractical. That is entirely fine. What is not fine, and downright dangerous, is when we lack a healthy outlet and fail to promote space to find one. An outlet for emotion is essential. Whether it be meditation, art, sports, reading, spending time with friends, or whatever feels best to handle your emotions, try something and find what works. A bottled heart is bound to burst.

I am unabashedly an advocate for empathy and actively seeking to understand our emotions. From my own experience, I recognize the value of emotional intelligence. It helps improve our personal well-being and helps promote the cohesion and harmony of a community.

I also understand, that as a private, all-male institution, traditional ideas of masculinity may make us feel averse to recognizing our emotions and the issues we face while dealing

with them, let alone our willingness to communicate how we genuinely feel.

But we must communicate. We must deal with our emotions. We must challenge any unhealthy tendencies to stay silent and ignore both ourselves and others. Silence and suppression are not healthy.

H-SC is our home and it is our duty to make it an enjoyable experience despite the stress and hardship we are naturally bound to face in life. Understanding how to take a moment to breathe, reflect, and respond to our emotions helps maintain our sanity in the throes of adversity. Actively practicing it helps make us great men and great citizens.

Finally, our campus has many wonderful services readily available when we need help. The Counseling and Wellness Centers are always ready to receive us with open, nonjudgmental arms. Let us make sure to reach out to each other and trusted professionals when we recognize ourselves or another needs help. There is no shame in having emotions, but there is certainly danger in ignoring them.

So just take a second, breathe, and ask yourself, "How do I feel?"

Opinion: The AAF is No Real Threat to the NFL

Adam Lovelace '22
Guest Contributor

The NFL faces its newest challenge with the Alliance of American Football having taken the stage of football for the past few weeks. The AAF has garnered a decent following, and a much-needed dose of football while the NFL season is over. Many writers have speculated that due to its early success, the AAF could pose a serious threat to the NFL in terms of popularity.

In its first few weeks, the AAF has been exciting, with jaw-dropping hits and acrobatic plays. Well, there was one hit where a quarterback's helmet came off, and for the "athletic plays"...a subpar quarterback threw a pass over his head to a tight-end who got released by the Carolina Panthers. Oh, and the play gained a hard-earned one yard. But hold on, there was no flag on the hard hit!

So, the NFL must be in some

trouble, right? Absolutely not. The truth of the matter is, the AAF is a joke. Their goal does not seem to be to dethrone the NFL, but it is hard to foresee the AAF becoming a staple league in America. We have seen this before; this is just another league's attempt to recreate the financial and cultural magnitude of the NFL. The XFL's attempt to combine WWE and football was a disaster, and the USFL is a footnote in football history (no, I didn't just put together a string of letters, the USFL was a real professional football league, and it actually featured legends of the game like Jim Kelly and Herschel Walker. The league's only major claim to fame was Steve Young, and he never saw a dime of his USFL contract before it went bankrupt.).

The truth of the matter is, no football league will stand a change of having lasting success while the NFL has such a stronghold on the sport. Even with the AAF being broadcasted on some big-name television stations, the biggest story in football is the prospect of Antonio Brown being traded. Even while in the dead of the offseason, the NFL still dominates in popularity. Honestly, are you going to choose to watch the Birmingham Iron lead by Trent Richardson, or watch the Golden State Warriors led by Steph Curry? This is practically a league for rejects. These teams are made of players that couldn't make the NFL; mediocre football players, which means mediocre football. Maybe the AAF could find its footing as an NFL developmental league, such as the NBA's G-League, but it simply will not last on its own as a league. AAF teams cannot even fill the stadiums, having to block off certain sections at many games. The NFL Pro-Bowl had more than half the seats filled, and it has been slammed for the past decade for being a low-quality product.

So, how long is the AAF going to

last, and what impact could it have on the NFL? To answer the former, the league will last at least however long this first season does. According to the Washington Post, the league needed a \$250 million bailout just to pay the players' salaries in week 2, while NFL practice squad players earn nearly \$130,000 a season. This statistic is kind of pitiful, if you think about it. To answer the latter part of the question, the AAF will have next to no impact on the NFL. The AAF does have transparency when it comes to replay, which in truth is refreshing because you get to watch marginal experts in the sport contemplate what constitutes a catch.

Could the NFL benefit from adopting this replay practice? Maybe, but it is entirely possible the NFL has thought of this already. I do not mean to bash this league entirely; football in any capacity is intriguing, and if it is on I will likely consider watching a game. However, this league is entirely temporary. Lifetime NFL fans are not suddenly going to watch a different team because the league does not throw flags on harder hits. With subpar players and low funding, the AAF will undoubtedly meet its end soon, and the players will continue to fight to find their way into the pros.

When it comes down to it, the players on these teams are only there to make it to the NFL anyway. Do you think their aspirations in football were to play for the Atlanta Legends or the Memphis Express? I strongly doubt it. Just like no basketball player dreams to play in the G-League, no football player dreams to play anywhere but the NFL. The AAF is not in any position to make a push as a dominating league in the competitive sports world of America. Developmental league? Maybe, but it would inevitably need to become part of the NFL landscape. So, enjoy the AAF while it's here, but do not expect it to be around for much longer.

Join our staff!

Writers, photographers, cartoonists and critics are all welcome to join *The Tiger*. Shoot us an email at newspaper@hsc.edu, or drop in on our next biweekly meeting held Monday, the 18th at 5:30pm in Brown Student Center 203. No experience necessary.

Letters to the Editor welcomed and encouraged!

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger



SPORTS

A First-Hand View of the NBA's All-Star Weekend

Garrett Barton III '21
Sports Editor

The NBA is in full swing again after players enjoyed their long-awaited break from the season a couple of weeks ago. Of course, fans were not completely deprived of basketball during this time, as the annual All-Star Weekend took place in Charlotte from February 15 to the 17th. I lucked into the chance of a lifetime that weekend, and for a total of zero American dollars I sat courtside at NBA All-Star Saturday Night among NBA stars, timeless legends of the game, and an astounding amount of hip-hop artists. This week, please enjoy a bit of Gonzo journalism from the luckiest night of my life.

A week or so prior to the event, I got a text from my mother with a link to a website that helps production companies keep seats filled at televised events. The particular link she sent me was a chance to be a 'seat filler' at All-Star Saturday Night, which involved taking 100 or so volunteers and putting them in lower bowl seats two hours before the event. This sounded too good to be true, so I read the fine print and found that we would be sitting in seats that were paid for, and once the true owner of the seat arrived we would be promptly escorted to the street and thanked for our help. So, even applying for this position was a big risk, but I chose to throw my hat in the ring anyways. Sure enough, I received an email a few days later saying that I had been accepted, and that I needed to confirm or deny the ticket as soon as possible. I decided that even if I were to be thrown out at the beginning of the contest, I'd still be satisfied with seeing my NBA heroes up-

close and personal during warmups.

I drove to Charlotte from Farmville early Saturday morning, making time for a shopping trip and a nice lunch in town before I made it to the stadium. I got there early, got in line, and watched as dozens of other volunteers accumulated in the very cold entrance outside of the arena. Once we were all checked in and were noticeably freezing, the company's representatives decided to address us. We were told to prepare to go through security, and much to our surprise, they spilled that our group would be treated to courtside seats once we made it through. Being a broke college kid, lifelong NBA fanatic, and aspiring sportswriter, I could hardly hold my excitement in check.

We were finally seated well over an hour after checking in, but as soon as we sat down we realized that our wait was well worth it. Our diverse group of volunteers, which contained men and women of any age over 18, was full of smiling faces and wide eyes as players warmed up for the skills competition and three-point contest. I was seated on what would typically be a team's bench, in the corner of the court near one of the tunnels that connects to a locker room. It proved to be a great spot, as I was within spitting distance of every player as he walked onto the court. I had some friendly back-and-forth with the Hawks' rookie guard Trae Young as he struggled to

figure out the passing drill before the skills challenge; being from Atlanta, I figured that I'd be the only Hawks fan Trae would see that night. However, I was proven wrong as I watched NBA hall of famer and Hawks legend Dominique Wilkins walk by and take the seat two down from my own. Once I picked my jaw up from the floor, I was hit with the unsettling realization that Dominique's arrival meant that the celebrities were beginning to claim their seats, and my time beside the court was limited.

The event kicked off with the Skills Challenge, which featured young stars like Luka Doncic, Jayson Tatum, De'Aaron Fox, and Nikola Jokic, just to name a few. Within twenty feet to my left were Wilkins, Julius 'Dr. J' Erving, Kareem-Abdul Jabbar, and Bill Russell. That makes a total of twenty NBA championships between four men. Two funny points: Kareem wore some hysterical socks with his own face smattered across the front, and Russell's first reaction after



Sports Editor Garrett Barton III points at the All-Star Game

The Importance of Soccer's Goalkeepers

Ian Connor '20
Guest Contributor

Soccer's position of goalkeeper is one of the most underrated in all of professional sports. It is a craft that often goes unnoticed by the casual viewer, and even by those that watch the game every week. Goalkeepers are the last line of defense; their success is expected while their errors often lead to goals and most of the blame. They are largely underappreciated, even when they do well, and are often the scapegoat in close losses.

To understand the importance of a goalkeeper, one must first understand what makes a good goalkeeper. The position has evolved significantly over the past ten to fifteen years as the sport of soccer has evolved itself. As teams have started to adopt a possession-based style of play, goalkeepers have become more involved with their feet, which is something that was not asked of them 20 years ago. Goalkeepers in today's game are now expected to be as skilled with their feet as their field-playing counterparts. They are required to pick out passes from the back to either keep possession or launch counter attacks for their team.

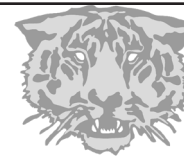
Another change that has been seen in goalkeeping is the development of the "sweeper keeper." This style of goalkeeping was first seen by German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. Neuer plays high off his line, often outside his own 18-yard box, and is great with his feet. This alongside his great shot stopping ability has led him to be regarded by many in the soccer community as one of the best, if not the best goalkeeper in the world. He rose to prominence in the early 2010s and his aggressive style allows him to quell oppos-

ing attacks before they get started, as well as provide an outlet for his team to play through. This style has permeated through the world of soccer and has changed the future of goalkeeping.

The importance of having a quality goalkeeper on your team cannot be understated. When looking across the best teams in Europe, who compete at the top of their leagues and in the Champions League, they all have top quality goalkeepers. This has been seen especially in the English Premier League, which is the top league in England and considered by many to be the top league in the world. After Manchester City's appointment of manager Pep Guardiola, they had one weakness in their team of superstars: their goalkeeper. When he began his reign, Guardiola had Joe Hart as his number one goalkeeper. Joe Hart was once one of the best shot stoppers in England, but lacked in other areas of his game. In response to this Guardiola brought in Claudio Bravo, who had similar shot stopping, but was better with his feet and more mobile. However, Bravo made many critical mistakes throughout his first season and City only managed to finish in the top four, losing out to champions Chelsea. The following season, City acquired Ederson, a Brazilian goalkeeper, from Benfica to help solidify the position. This transfer helped City go on a record-setting season and run away with the League title. They also went on to compete in the Champions League against perennial powerhouses such as Barcelona, Bayern Munich, and Juventus.

Another example of the importance of goalkeeping was the success of English team Burnley during the 2017-2018 season. During this season, Burnley had keeper Nick Pope between the sticks and despite being a typically bottom of the table club, ended up over achieving, and finishing

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What Happened to House of Delegates Continued

RA's) about the house of delegates at all." Area Coordinator Alex Abbott '17 confirmed that it is not the RA's responsibility to handle the implementation of the House of Delegates.

Andrew Marshall '18, another area coordinator for resident life, was in charge of editing The Key. When asked why he did not include the changes in the 2018-19 The Key he stated "It was not discussed when we

revised the key this last round." He stated that "What goes into The Key is determined by the Dean of Students and Faculty, I just edit the document." He stated that as far as he knew the House of Delegates was a "Nonentity for the most recent edition of The Key".

Student Body President Good stated that he did not know enough about the situation. "It's a challenging task" but he had been informed

by the Senate that they were meeting with Dean Holloman to implement the House of Delegates. He emphasized that he wanted to make sure the implementation was done correctly. "The goal is to have it elected by the end of the semester; we want to make sure we do this right. We don't want to take short cuts with this" He did admit that he had not been keeping a close eye on the project, but he stated that "I don't babysit the Senate, I trust them to get their job done."

Housing Director Holloman denied involvement in the process to implement the House of Delegates. He stated that "I'm not involved in that process". He stated that he was briefed earlier in the school year but he has not had a meeting with Senators concerning the House of Delegates in 2019. He could not name any senator working on the project currently. He stated that he was "unsure of the holdups concerning the project" but that "I work in housing" this is beyond my job". When pressed for more details he could not even provide a timeline for the roll out of the project. "I'm not sure where they are on it as I am not involved really in any way"

Dean Sabatini, the Dean of Students stated that he had not received updates anytime recently. "I worked with Bjore and I have heard nothing much".

As a new round of Executive Officers take office, the fate of the House of Delegates seems very much in peril. Although the project seems to be mostly completed in its planning stages there seems to be intense issues with implementation that need to be overcome. Although the bill was passed almost a year ago, it seems we're no closer to a House of Delegates now than we were 6 months ago.

All-Star Continued

meandering his 85 year old body to his seat was to stand directly in front of me, look Dominique in the eye, and give him the middle finger, causing the whole group to burst into laughter. I can't make this stuff up. The skills challenge came and went, and while I was enamored by the spectacle taking place, I couldn't help but grow terribly anxious about someone claiming the seat that had given me such great joy.

The second portion of the evening was the three-point contest, featuring stars like Dirk Nowitzki, Steph Curry, and Devin Booker. This was about an hour into the production, and by that time almost every courtside seat had been claimed. I kept my head on a swivel, nervously looking for the multi-millionaire that would rudely wake me up from my perfect basketball dream. The contest was heated, and Brooklyn Nets forward Joe Harris got the entire crowd on its feet by defeating Steph Curry in the final round. Joe Harris was an absolute bucket that night. If he had more time, he might have drained thirty shots in a row. Unreal. At this point, I was thanking God for the food poisoning or flat tire that must have gotten in the way of my seat holder, because we were two hours into the event and I was one of the last volunteers still standing.

Still scanning the arena for my seat's rightful owner, I prepared for the main event of the evening: the Slam Dunk Contest. Second-year Knicks guard Dennis Smith Jr. was the obvious fan favorite in Charlotte, as he is a native of Fayetteville, NC and played college ball at North Carolina State. While he did put on a great show, it took him multiple attempts to complete each dunk: I learned that while this can be suspenseful during a broadcast, it really kills the energy in an arena and brings down the volume quite a bit. However, Smith's most worthy challenger did the opposite, as the Thunder's Hamidou Diallo completed each explosive dunk on the first try. It took quite a performance to overcome the fans' bias towards Smith, but Dial-

lo won us over by clearing the 7-foot-1 Shaquille O'Neal for a ridiculous slam. Diallo took home the final trophy of the night, and the show was over.

I had officially been in the arena for over five hours, and a spontaneous little risk had turned into one of the greatest nights of my young life. I am eternally grateful to the man or woman who paid thousands of dollars for a courtside seat at the dunk contest but casually skipped it over. I think we should all strive to be so wealthy that we could not only buy courtside seats, but disregard them without care. Ultimately, the fun I had in that arena did not come from the contests themselves, but rather the spectacle of the night as a whole. That is what NBA All-Star weekend is all about nowadays: the basketball is a bit subpar due to lack of motivation and fear of injury to players, but the weekend is still a marquee event because of its star power as well as its role as a sort of NBA family reunion. This event takes up three days from the one week that players get to themselves over the course of the season, and is obviously caters more to casual fans than basketball purists.

Regardless, I was able to appreciate the night for many reasons: I got to witness NBA superstars and talented young players in action, and I got to spy on celebrities like Spike Lee, Gucci Mane, and Hasan Minhaj. But most of all, I was able to take pride in being at the heart of a league and game that I have obsessed over since I was a kid. I can confidently say that my ten year old self would have fainted at the idea of such an experience, and it took a lot to keep 19 year old me from doing the same. At the end of the night, my life was not changed in any way by the actual basketball that took place, but the NBA still achieved their goal: I was enthralled by the bright lights and A-list celebrities in the stands. The NBA All-Star weekend serves as a fantasy-land that makes fans feel included, and I have never felt more included in a sporting event than I did on that fortunate night.

The Importance of Soccer's Goalkeepers Continued

in 7th place. This was not all because of Pope, but he helped Burnley post one of the best defensive records in the League while Pope allowed 1.02 goals on average, making 114 saves throughout the year, and was voted Burnley player of the year. After his injury this past summer, Burnley has struggled this season, currently sitting in 15th.

The most notable example in the Premier League today is the recent shift of Liverpool from top four team to a title favorite following their signing of keeper Alisson Becker from Roma this past summer. Liverpool has often been held back by their goalkeeping, with players such as Simon Mignolet and Loris Karius. Both have showed potential but repeatedly made big mistakes in major moments that ultimately led to Liverpool struggling to compete on the big stage. However, now that Alisson has anchored the team this year they are posting a better defensive record, conceding 15 goals through 27 games, which is fewest in the league. With this improvement, they are currently one point below defending champion Manchester

City in the Premier League standing. What points to the importance of Alisson's addition is the fact that Liverpool's squad is almost unchanged from last season. They still have the likes of Mohammad Salah, Roberto Firmino, and Sadio Mané leading the front lines while Vigil Van Dijk anchors the back line. More importantly, Salah is not having the record-setting season he had last year where he scored 32 goals in 36 games, led the league in scoring, and was talked about as a possible Balon d'Or candidate. Alisson is the main difference between Liverpool of last year and this year, and shows the difference that a world-class goalkeeper can make.

A goalkeeper may not be a manager's first priority when shaping his team, as many are concerned with scoring goals or signing world-class midfielders who control the game through their passing and tackling. However, it should be noted that if a manager wants to compete in the world's top leagues, it is paramount to have a goalkeeper who is a great shot stopper, controls his box, and is great with his feet.